

# Joint environment strength proves key to winning global war on terror

**CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti** – Combating transnational terrorism in the Horn of Africa is not a job one person can carry out alone.

The commander for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa realizes this fact. Therefore, he relies daily on the service members here, their occupational specialties and their general diplomacy to accomplish this unique mission.

Marine Brig. Gen. Mastin M. Robeson, commander CJTF-HOA, understands that unlike other recent conflicts, the war on terrorism here requires special attention.

“We are empowering host nations to retake neighborhoods,” Robeson said of CJTF-HOA’s mission.

“The further outside into the rural areas you get, the less centralized is the government,” he continued, describing the situation for many of the countries here in the Horn. “We want to help them establish better coastal and border security, a better intelligence architecture, the ability to investigate, understand what’s going on and do it democratically.”

One of the task force’s greatest weapons in this unorthodox war on terror is partnering with local governments, and more effectively getting involved within the rural areas.

“This whole operation is intelligence based, but in truth, the smaller the force, the bigger the area, the more intelligence based you have to be to be successful,” said Robeson, a native of the Carolinas. “We’re a small force in a big area.”

The commander and members of his staff can speak with the government leaders, but in order to get into the rural areas the task force uses its specially trained civil affairs soldiers. These soldiers go out into the communities, talk to the tribal leaders, assess the villages’ needs and provide the people with services. Many of these rural communities require medical attention, which the soldiers provide through Medical Civic Action Programs. The civil affairs veterinary experts have also lent their services to the villagers’ animals, which serve as primary sources of income, trade, food and transportation for people in the region.

“We treat livestock – a lot of goats and sheep – for external and internal parasites,” said Army Cpl. Jonathan D. Bailey, a Columbus, Ohio, native and civil affairs specialist here. “Basically for those folks their goats, their livestock, are their life. That’s money to them. [It helps] to empower them. The healthier

their animals can be, the better they are.”

Conducting missions of this nature allows the command to build a rapport with the tribal chiefs and his people.

“To date, our civil-military operations with host nations and our military-to-military training have helped the nations of the Horn of Africa to prepare their own nations for the war on terrorism,” said Martinsburg, W. Va., native Army Brig. Gen. Willard C. Broadwater, deputy commander, CJTF-HOA.

Conducting the routine mil-to-mil training is a responsibility of many of the soldiers and Marines deployed here. These aren’t their primary functions, but additional assignments they have readily accepted. The soldiers are deployed here to conduct tactical missions, and the Marines are here to provide force protection for the camp. When scheduling has allowed, the two services have even trained together.

Though some of the units here have various missions and their paths only cross for specific situations, others interact with their brothers and sisters from other services on a daily basis.

“Each service has different ways of doing things, but they all come together,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Roger L. Randolph, help desk chief. “It’s good to get insight on how other services do things. I will actually take some things back.”

Randolph supervises soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines each day. The North Chicago, Ill., native said there is a sense of competition among the workers, but more so a general respect.

“The joint environment is unique. Everybody knows somebody else has something to bring to the table,” Randolph said.

The help desk is not the only place aboard

the camp that requires daily interaction among the different services.

“Every hour of every day is spent working with a sister service,” said Air Force Col. Kenneth E. Curell, a Centerville, Ohio, native and director for the air component coordination element. “My specific job requires me to know many of the basic missions performed by all of the sister services because I’m constantly working issues to get them the air power they need.”

Maintaining a sense of understanding among the services, their varied techniques and learning from this unique situation is crucial to the task force’s mission. According to the deputy commander, each member of the task force understands these things, which gives the operation here its strength.

“As our area of operations is two-thirds the size of the continental U.S. and covers seven countries, the missions of CJTF-HOA demand an interservice joint environment. We could not operate without representatives of all of the U.S. armed

*See Joint Operations page 6*



*During a weekly meeting service members from every branch discuss upcoming projects in the joint environment. The commander believes that CJTF-HOA’s strengths lie in the joint operations that service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines participate in every day in the Horn of Africa.*

## The Horn Courier



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Cover photo by  
Cpl. G. Lane Miley

A Task Force Betio Marine breaches a concertina barrier during a live fire exercise near Arta, Djibouti, Jan. 26. The Marines

were supported by the Old Guard who answered calls for fire and provided 81 mm mortar support.

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